(iii) In an effort to check cable piracy, the Cable Television Networks Regulation Act has been amended in 2000, enabling the Government to prohibit a Cable operator from transmitting or re-transmitting any programme or channel for which he has not been granted a license by the Copyright holder.

(iv) A recommendation made by the Committee for Development of the Entertainment Sector, that a realistic ceiling level for entertainment tax to be imposed by the State Governments could be 60%, since high rate of entertainment tax facilitates piracy, has been communicated to all State Governments.

Vulgar TV advertisements

2557. SHRIMATI SHABANA AZMI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to act seriously against Vulgar television advertisements;

(b) if so, whether Government have received number of complaints from MPs, housewives and others regarding obscene advertisements on television;

(c) whether Government have already held talks with the Indian Broadcasting Federation about the advertising standards;

(d) if so, whether in the films also, some scenes are being shown which is uncalled for; and

(e) if so, the steps Government propose to take to crack down on vulgar television advertisements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) to (e) The programmes of all Satellite Channels, when transmitted through cable television networks in the country are required to adhere to the Advertising Code prescribed under the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules framed therunder. The Advertising Code *inter alia* prohibits carriage of such

programmes in Cable Service, which offend morality or decency, project a derogatory image of women, have indecent or vulgar themes.

Complaints/suggestions are received from time to time expressing concerns about advertisements telecast on television channels.

Government has constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee under Section 20 of the Cable Television Network (Regulation) Act, 1995, to look into violations of the Advertising Code. On the recommendations of the Committee, appropriate action is taken against TV channels from time to time for violation of the provisions of the Code. Concerns regarding some television advertisements have also been conveyed to the Indian Broadcasting Federation.

Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), certifies all films for public exhibition, in accordance with the provisions of the Cinematograph Act, 1952 and the guidelines framed thereunder.

Guidelines for uplinking the foreign news channels

2558. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines for uplinking of the foreign owned news channels;

(b) the break-up of the channels which have availed this facility; and

(c) whether some wholly owned foreign news channels have applied for permission to uplink from India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD): (a) The guideline for uplinking of foreign owned news channels, *inter-alia*, permit foreign equity holding in the applicant company up ot 26% of the total paid-up capital and require the company to be registered in India under the Companies Act, 1956 and the majority of Directors, CEO and News Editor (s) to be Resident Indians.